



CITY OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

*Office of the Mayor*

Thomas M. Menino

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Mayor Menino Helps Working Families Put “Money in Their Pockets”**

*Kicks Off Boston’s Earned Income Tax Credit Campaign with  
Grand Opening of 19 FREE Tax Prep Sites*

Mayor Thomas M. Menino and the Boston Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Campaign kicked off another tax season today at the Roxbury Resource Center in order to put more money back in the pockets of working families. Mayor Menino joined community volunteers, business leaders and EITC recipients in Roxbury to announce that the *Boston EITC Campaign* will open 19 free tax preparation sites (see attached) throughout the city to assist residents in filing their taxes and claiming the EITC.

The EITC is a federal and state tax credit available to many low-to-moderate income working families and individuals. Eligible residents can qualify for up to \$4,700 in federal and state money, but many people are unaware of the EITC and therefore don't apply for it. Last year at the 16 free tax prep sites, Boston’s campaign served 4,000 families and returned \$5.2 million total tax dollars and \$2.2 million EITC tax dollars. As a whole, almost 41,000 claims were processed in Boston last year, refunding more than \$63 million to Boston households.

"The EITC is designed to put more money in the pockets of hard working people," said Mayor Menino. "In today's tough economy, people can use this money to help pay bills, buy food, or invest in their families future. I urge residents to go to the free tax prep site in their community in order to receive their full tax refund," he added.

Mayor Menino also urged employers to inform their workers about the underutilized tax credit. "The best way to get this money into the hands of the people who earned it is by getting the word out," said the Mayor.

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With the help of volunteers, the campaign aims to return millions in tax refund dollars to the pockets of Boston's low-to-moderate income families. Residents who qualify for the tax credit can go to the tax prep site in their community and have their taxes done for free. All tax prep sites use E-file and allow tax filers to receive their tax refund within 8 to 10 days. They will also receive financial counseling and have a chance to learn about a variety of other city services. Families and individuals may qualify for the earned income tax credit if they worked in the year 2003 and earned less than \$35,000 (see attached income limits). To find out if you qualify for the tax credit, call 617.918.5275 or visit [www.bostontaxhelp.org](http://www.bostontaxhelp.org).

"Many hard working families can receive a bigger tax refund because of the Earned Income Tax Credit. Even though the EITC has been around for years, many taxpayers are unaware that they may qualify," said Bill Smits, IRS Territory Manager, Boston. "The IRS and volunteers of Mayor Menino's Boston EITC Campaign want to make sure that Boston residents know about the credit, how to apply, and where to go to get free tax help. Visit one of the Boston EITC Campaign sites and find out if you are eligible. Volunteers will help eligible families prepare their returns free of charge. The IRS and the volunteers of the Boston EITC Campaign want to make sure Boston residents get the money they deserve."

"Fleet is proud to be supporting the Mayor's Earned Income Tax Credit campaign," said Gail Snowden, managing director of Fleet's Community Investment Group and president of the FleetBoston Financial Foundation. "It is very gratifying to know that our involvement and support of the Roxbury Resource Center and other tax preparation sites will help hundreds of low-and moderate-income taxpayers keep more of their hard-earned money."

The Boston EITC campaign is a collaboration of government agencies, foundations, community-based, non-profit organizations, as well as the business community. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) provides free software and training materials to the volunteer sites. Together, the Campaign and the IRS provide training to site staff and volunteers.

For more information about the Earned Income Tax Credit, visit [www.bostontaxhelp.org](http://www.bostontaxhelp.org) or call 617.918.5275.

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## **WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD TAX SITE**

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- ❑ Social Security Cards for you, your spouse, your children and other dependents.
  - ❑ All W-2 forms (Earning Statements) for you and your spouse for every employer during 2003.
  - ❑ All 1099 forms (including 1099G for any government payments, such as unemployment payments and 1099R for any pension payments received).
  - ❑ Total of payments made for child care expenses as well as the name, address and SSN of child care provider.
  - ❑ Form 1098 (Tuition payment statement) for each household member who attended college in 2003 and the total amount of student loan interest paid.
  - ❑ Total rent paid in 2003 along with landlord's name and address.
  - ❑ Last year's (2002) tax return, if you want to direct deposit your refund
  - ❑ Your check book or a voided check
  - ❑ Any correspondence from the Internal Revenue Service
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